

REMARKS

Applicants confirm the election of claims 16-20 in this application. Thus, claims 1-15 are withdrawn from consideration, and have been canceled without prejudice to any divisional filed thereon.

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on February 1, 2007. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 16-20 now remain in the application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and accordingly request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,422,640 to Whitehead et al. ("Whitehead"). In order to advance prosecution of this case toward allowance, independent claim 16 has been amended to more clearly define over Whitehead. In particular, claim 16 now recites that the top surface of the seal is planar. This differs from the seal 24 of Whitehead which is non-planar and includes a groove 26 that defines deformable projections 28 which deform to provide a seal against an inner panel 16 of the door/doorframe 12 (col. 3, lines 14-17 and FIG. 3). Fig. 4 of Whitehead illustrates another nonplanar seal.

The amended language recited in independent claim 16 is fully supported in the specification and therefore introduces no new subject matter. More particularly, the specification states, in pertinent part, that "[t]he non-linear configuration of the seal 44, in conjunction with the top planar surface 66, provides a substantial surface area for contacting the doorframe 12 to prevent water leakage within the vehicle."

Independent claim 16 has further been amended to recite a carrier having a body. This amendment has been made to supply antecedent basis for this term in claim 20.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 16 recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by Whitehead and the claim should therefore be allowed.

Moreover, as claims 17-20 depend from allowable independent claim 16, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested in Whitehead, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-20 should be allowed as well.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes any matter requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this response. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the

Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
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